

CIRCULAR WALK AROUND MELBURY ABBAS

1. With the phone box behind you go through the gate opposite to the left of the war memorial. The village lost five men in WW1 and the churchyard contains a Commonwealth War Grave to Private P J Brown.
2. Pass through the grounds of the Church Hall which ceased to be a school in 1933 Walk through the woodland and down the steps.
3. Carry straight on between the Old Reading room where the home guard did shooting practice during WW2 and with The Old Forge to the left walk down the hill.
4. Soon, on your left, you will pass Fanners Field in Memory of Margaret Honour (nee Fanner) who gave it to the village in 1997.
5. Carry on walking and as you descend the hill you will pass Horders. The Horder family lived in the village continuously for some 700 years. In all that time all male Horders used only six names.

6. Follow on up the hill you will pass Lots Cottage one of the oldest dwellings in the village. Pass through Twintown to your right with Gourds Farm to your left. Into East Compton and past the remains of the old beautiful old church tower on the left- hand side.
7. The church was constructed in the 13th century. Stay a while and imagine that in 1866 the village decided to reposition the whole church from where you are to where you started this walk. The whole thing took only 15 months including the bells.
8. Just past the church on the right- hand side is a gateway set back which leads through a long field.
9. At the end of this field is another field gate on the right leading onto a chalky path which ascends the chalk downland.
10. Around halfway up the chalky path there is a small grassy path on the left that takes you to the walkers gate in the middle of the fence line.
11. Once at the very top by the Beacon, enjoy the view.

12. When you are ready take the stile on the right-hand side and proceed down the hill towards the village of Melbury Abbas. Follow the path down through the fields and out onto the lane.
13. Turn right past the box telephone box and carry on down the lane.
14. Take the first lane on the right and walk down there for about half a mile and you will see an old farmhouse on the left set back from the road and opposite on the right you will see a footpath sign and a walkers gate leading through a field and back up towards Melbury Hill.
15. Walk the steep ascent to the top of the middle part between the hills and go through the walkers gate in the middle of the fence line.
16. From here follow the small grassy path back down to the chalk path that you took on the way up and keep to the left being sure to spot the smaller chalky path halfway down which takes you to the field gate at the bottom

17. Go through the gate, turn left and walk down the track through the long field.
18. Go through the last field gate and turn left into the village.
19. Carry on walking down the lane and take a left past Old Tuckers Cottage. This lane takes up deeper into the village.
20. Follow the lane around the village past Willis farm and when you get to a steep left-hand bend you will see a clearly marked footpath sign on the right which takes you back up to the church and layby.

Map below:



